



NEWS RELEASE

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EDITORS' NOTE: This Sept. 24th news release from the U.S. Department of Education has been revised to include Nebraska information. **CONTACT:** U.S. Department of Education, Press Office: (202) 401-1576 or press@ed.gov

FIVE NEBRASKA SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL 2013 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Five Nebraska schools were among 286 schools recognized recently as National Blue Ribbon Schools by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. The schools were selected for their overall academic excellence or their progress in improving student academic achievement.

The following Nebraska schools were named Blue Ribbon Schools for 2013:

- Burwell Elementary School in Burwell
- Ord Elementary School in Ord
- Wakefield Elementary School in Wakefield
- Wisner-Pilger Elementary School in Wisner
- St. Patrick's Catholic School in Elkhorn

The U.S. Department of Education will honor 236 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 18-19 in Washington, D.C. In its 31-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on nearly 7,500 of America's schools.

"Excellence in education matters and we should honor the schools that are leading the way to prepare students for success in college and careers," said Secretary Duncan. "National Blue Ribbon schools represent examples of educational excellence, and their work reflects the belief that every child in America deserves a world-class education."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement.

The program recognizes schools in one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

To select National Blue Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Education requested nominations from

the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction. The U.S. Secretary of Education invites nominated schools to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

A list of the 2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools is available at <http://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonsschools>.